

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on May 7, 2004, in which claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). With this Amendment, independent claims 1, 13, 18, and 23 and dependent claims 4-8, 10-12, 15-16, and 26 have been amended.

Dependent Claim Amendments

Dependent claim 12 has been amended to correct an informality in the claim. Specifically, the word "and" has been inserted prior to the last element of the claim.

Dependent claims 4-8, 10-11, 15-16, and 26 have been amended as necessary to follow the language presented in the amended independent claims from which they depend.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, independent claims 1, 13, 18, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over various combinations of the Moriconi patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,158,010), the Andrews patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,574,736), and the Boitana patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,305,456).

One of the unique features of the present invention is that it provides a standardized application level security service that is accessible to all applications on all platforms across the entire enterprise. With this Amendment, independent claims 1, 13, 18, and 23 more clearly identify this feature by including a plurality of security providers on different platforms. Specifically, claims 1 and 13 include a plurality of data stores (of the security providers) on different platforms, and claims 18 and 23 include a plurality of security providers on different platforms. This claimed feature of the invention is discussed in the specification and figures, for example FIGS. 2 and 3 illustrate security providers 48, having data stores 70, implemented on different platforms.

Providing a plurality of security providers on different platforms provides a number of additional benefits over the prior art. First, a plurality of security providers, and associated data stores, provides fault tolerance. If one of the security providers were to become inaccessible, other security providers may be used. In this way, the security system is able to continue operating even

if a problem arises with a single security provider. Second, the different platform aspect underscores the fact that the present invention is platform independent. The computer security system of the present invention is capable of operating on various platforms to provide enterprise-wide security regardless of platform. Furthermore, by providing a plurality of platforms, the efficiency of the security system is enhanced.

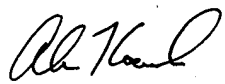
None of the Moriconi, Andrews, or Boitana patents show, teach, or suggest a plurality of security providers, or associated data stores, on different platforms. Rather, these patents describe systems having a central security provider that operates on a single platform.

Since amended independent claims 1, 13, 18, and 23 all include a plurality of security providers, or associated data stores, on different platforms, and since this feature is not shown, taught, or suggested by the prior art of record, claims 1, 13, 18, and 23 are allowable. In addition, dependent claims 2-12, 14-17, 19-22, and 24-26 all depend from amended independent claims 1, 13, 18, and 23 respectfully and are allowable therewith. Reconsideration and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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